

Message Text

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FOR EUR/CAN:KJONIETZ

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, CA
SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON POPLAR RIVER

REF: NEE/JONIETZ TELECON - OCT 25

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENT CANADA
PRESS RELEASE WHICH EMBOFF RECEIVED TODAY FROM DEPARTMENT
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (A. PARK).

BEGIN TEXT: BEGIN UNDERLINE: MARCHAND AND BYERS DISCUSS
POPLAR RIVER PROJECT END UNDERLINE.

REGINA, OCTOBER 25, 1977, 10:00 A.M. -- LEN MARCHAND,
FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, AND NEIL BYERS, ENVIRONMENT
SASKATCHEWAN MINISTER, TODAY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT
THE SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION WILL COMPLY WITH ALL
CONDITIONS OF ITS PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LICENSING WITH
RESPECT TO THE POPLAR RIVER POWER PROJECT.

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FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS FRIDAY IN
OTTAWA, MR. MARCHAND AND MR. BYERS SAID THEY ANTICIPATED
NO PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPING THE PROJECT TO CONFORM TO THE
BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY OR ANY OTHER OF CANADA'S INTER-
NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

BECAUSE OF THE POWER PLANT'S NEARNESS TO THE UNITED STATES

BORDER, THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONCERN IN THE U.S. OVER WHAT EFFECTS THE PROJECT MIGHT HAVE ON THE STATE OF MONTANA.

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, BOTH CANADA AND SASKATCHEWAN HAVE KEPT U.S. FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE PROJECT, WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CORONACH IN SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN.

UNDERSTANDINGS HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON A NUMBER OF KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING AIR QUALITY ASPECTS OF THE FIRST 300-MEGAWATT UNIT. AS WELL, MUTUALLY AGREEABLE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ASSIGN STUDIES ON WATER APPORTIONMENT AND WATER QUALITY TO THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.

OTHER STEPS TAKEN BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES TO MEET THESE CONCERNS INCLUDE:

--ASSURANCES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THAT ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY WILL BE MET;

--AN INTERIM COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN OF WATER APPORTIONMENT GUARANTEEING A DEPENDABLE STREAM FLOW ACROSS THE BORDER, EVEN DURING THE DRY SEASON;

--SPC'S UNDERTAKING OF A VARIETY OF WATER QUALITY STUDIES AS A CONDITION OF ITS LICENSING BY THE FEDERAL AND
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PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS;

--THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A JOINT CANADA-U.S. WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK ALONG THE POPLAR RIVER;

--A COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN TO USE APPROPRIATE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE BY SPC OF PARTICULATE REMOVAL EQUIPMENT (ELECTROSTATIC PRECIPITATORS), HAVING AN EFFICIENCY OF 99.5 PERCENT;

--CONTINUED MONITORING AND STUDY OF AIR QUALITY ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT BY THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE PEOPLE OF SASKATCHEWAN AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS IN MONTANA.

THEY NOTED THAT THE FIRST UNIT IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN OPERATION IN THE SPRING OF 1979. THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR ADDITIONAL UNITS WILL INCLUDE CAREFUL STUDY OF THEIR

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND THE MANNER IN WHICH
ANY SUCH EFFECTS WOULD BE MITIGATED. END TEXT. ENDERS

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